

Report of the Council of the Senate on the proposed extension of the Scott Polar Research Institute

14 June 1965

The COUNCIL OF THE SENATE beg leave to report to the University as follows:

1. In a Report, dated 1 February 1960, on an extension of the Scott Polar Research Institute (*Reporter*, 1959-60, p. 767) the Council said that they had been informed by the General Board that the Institute, which, by Grace 5 of 23 February 1957, had become a Sub-department of the Department of Geography, desired to proceed as soon as possible with the building of an extension so as to allow for the development of essential activities of the Institute during the next ten years. The general plan proposed was for a building of about 10,000 sq.ft. which would provide space for a library, for maps and drawings, a laboratory, a lecture-room, research offices for eight to ten research workers, and basement storage space. The Report recorded that the Faculty Board of Geography and Geology were of the opinion that there was an undoubted need for the proposed new accommodation and both the Faculty Board and the General Board said that they had agreed to give the proposal their support provided that the necessary funds could be raised from sources outside the University. The Council said that they thought the proposal was reasonable, but that before any appeal was made for financial assistance the formal approval of the University should be sought for the erection of an extension to the Institute in the area immediately to the south of the present building, where space had been reserved for this specific purpose in the revised plans prepared by Mr J. Murray Easton, F.R.I.B.A. for the development of the Lensfield Site which were approved by Grace 6 of 20 June 1950.

2. By Grace 2 of 20 February 1960, the University gave its approval for an extension to the Institute to be built on the space referred to in the foregoing paragraph, but the requirement that the necessary funds should be raised from sources outside the University has caused some delay in seeking the University's approval of a plan for the extension building. In December 1964, however, as a result of an approach made by the Vice-Chancellor in the summer of 1963, the Ford Foundation made a grant of \$280,000 (£100,000) for this purpose. With the addition of resources in the Institute's building account, sufficient money should be available to meet the cost of the building which is now proposed. An application has been made to the University Grants Committee for a Treasury non-recurrent grant to cover the cost of fees and furnishings.

3. Since 1960, library and map acquisitions have expanded at an increasing rate so that the new accommodation now needed is:

- 1 Lecture-room.
- 1 Library and offices.
- 1 Map room and drawing office.
- 2 Laboratories.
- 6 Administrative and staff offices.
- 8 Rooms for research students and visiting scholars.
- 1 Basement comprising storage, plus 1 cold room and 2 darkrooms.
- 1 Basement workshop.

The extension which it is proposed to erect would have a usable floor space of 14,000 sq.ft. and an additional 2,000 sq.ft. for circulation.

4. The Scott Polar Research Institute Building Committee, appointed by the Financial Board to supervise the planning of the extension, has, with the Financial Board's approval, appointed Messrs Hughes and Bicknell as architects for the scheme. On the general design of the proposed extension, the architects have reported as follows:

'The extension is planned to occupy the ground at the back of the Institute's existing building. It consists of a three storey rectangular block connected to the existing building by a two-storey link.

The main entrance to the new Institute building will be from the west, roughly opposite the entrance to the large lecture theatre in the Chemical Laboratories Building.

On the ground floor the link forms the entrance hall which also serves as an extension of the museum. It will be supervised from an enquiry office opposite the main entrance. From the entrance hall there is direct access to the lecture-room, for an audience of about 100. The rest of the ground floor of the extension is occupied by cloak rooms, administrative offices, storage space, a laboratory of 600 sq.ft., and a research office.

The first floor is largely devoted to an extension of the library, giving an additional library floor area of 2,650 sq.ft. There is direct access from the library to a librarian's room, a library office, three small offices, and a room for the storage of archives and film.

The second floor consists of a map and drawing room of 1,500 sq.ft. with good north light, a laboratory of 600 sq.ft., and eight research rooms.

The basement under the three-storey block provides a workshop, lit by natural light, two photographic dark rooms, a cold room (provision is made for two more of these in the future), and about 2,350 sq.ft. of general storage. Stores can be brought into the building through a large opening behind the main staircase. A hoist at the back of the stairs will make it possible for comparatively large objects to be lowered from ground level to the basement or lifted to any floor.

The building is of fire-resisting constructions with load bearing brick walls, and reinforced concrete floors and roofs. The external walls are of handmade bricks similar in colour to those of the existing building. Large windows light the exhibition space, the laboratories, and part of the map room. Elsewhere the windows are smaller and are related to a floor unit of 150 sq.ft.

Heating is provided by an extension of the existing low pressure hot water system which has been adapted as an extension of the heating system of the Chemical Laboratories.

5. On the sketch appended to this Report the proposed extension is shown in outline in relation to the position of the existing building and of the Chemical Laboratory. The architects' plan and a model of the complete building are displayed at the Old Schools in the entrance to the Cockerell Building.

The Council of the Senate, having consulted the Financial Board in accordance with Regulation 4 for University Buildings (*Ordinances*, p. 668), recommend:

That the plan prepared by Messrs Hughes and Bicknell for the extension of the Scott Polar Research Institute which is described in this Report, and details of which are displayed at the Old Schools in the entrance to the Cockerell Building, be approved; and that the Financial Board be authorized, when they are satisfied that the necessary funds will be available, to accept a tender.

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LENSFIELD ROAD

SCOTT POLAR
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

PROPOSED EXTENSION

CHEMICAL LABORATORY

N

UNION ROAD

SCALE 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 FEET



